Johnston, Bernice (Re thefts & returns of her fur coat) June - Aug, 1919 (021)

REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO
SUPERINTENDENT

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

May 21st, 1919.

The President,

University of Toronto.

Dear Sir; Re Loss of Coat by Miss Johnston and other thefts

This coat was taken from the cloak-room of the Chemistry Building on Thursday, April 3rd, and following your instructions, the Pinkerton Detective Agency were put to work on April 5th.

Mr. Hammond of this Agency has now located a coat, which, though it has been altered, has been positively identified by Miss Johnston as being her coat, particularly by an ink stain in the pocket and some marks on the lining.

This coat was found in the possession of Miss Margaret R. Ross, a third year student, living at #184 College Street, whose home is Brucefield, Ontario. An outline of the operator's report of it's recovery is as follows.

As there was some talk among the girls about a fur coat which Miss Ross had, Mr. Hammond decided to question Miss Ross in this connection. She first claimed that the coat had been purchased in the United States by her father, without her knowledge, and that certain alterations, of which she had no knowledge, had been made to it. When asked for further explanations she admitted that this story was not true and that she had bought this coat for Forty Dollars ($40.00) without seeing it, from a girl she had never seen before, and did not know, and that some minor alterations had been done on it, as arranged by the other girl, for which Miss Ross had paid. Miss Ross claims that the girl from whom she bought the coat said she had been referred to her by a Dr. Ester Harrison who denies having made this reference. Information obtained from Holt Renfrew & Co. indicates that on April 4th, one day after Miss Johnston missed her coat, Miss Ross, giving her address as #4 Queen's Park, brought in a coat to be altered.

Mr. Hammond also reports another case of a missing book in which, according to his investigation, Miss Ross is implicated.

He reports that about three weeks ago, in a class of four, in Botany, of which Miss Ross was the only girl, Professor R. B. Thomson borrowed a copy of "Gray's New Manual of Botany" from

Miss J. G. Wright to lend to Miss Ross who did not have a copy. This book has since been missing. On May 16th at 5 p.m. Mr. Hammond found a similar book in Miss Ross's room at #184 College Street. On the same evening, Miss Wright positively identified, by pencil markings on pages 676 and 264, the book in Miss Ross's possession as being her own. During the period between 5 and 8 p.m. on May 16th, it is claimed that the book had been altered by partially tearing out the flyleaf on which Miss Wright claims her name had been written. Miss Ross claims that this book is not the missing book but is her own and was one that her brother had used at High School. Evidence of proof of this last statment is the name "J. E. Ross" which appears along the outer edge of this book. Miss Ross has since admitted that this book belongs to Miss Wright and is the missing book referred to.

On Sunday morning, May 18th, a conference was held at Queen's Hall between Miss Ross, her father who had come to the City at, I think, the request of Miss Livingstone, Mr. Hammond and Mr. LePan. Miss Ross admitted the theft of the book but denied any further knowledge of the fur coat and again insisted that the fox fur that she wore and referred to on page 3 of the report of May 12th was one purchased by her father. Her father said it likely was but he could not identify it.

On Wednesday, May 21st, Miss Ross and her father came to the Superintendent's Office and stated to Mr. LePan that Miss Ross had been mistaken about the fox fur referred to as having been purchased by her father. She now states that she found it at the Regent Theatre in October 1918.

I cannot help but feel, in view of the contradictory stories given by Miss Ross in regard to the book and the fox fur, that her explanation in regard to the fur coat cannot be accepted as being very satisfactory.

I am enclosing herewith the copy of "Gray's New Manual of Botany" before referred to and reports from the Pinkerton Detective Agency as under.

	Report	of	Saturday,	April 5th.
	"	"	Monday	" 7th.
	"	"	Tuesday	" 8th.
	"	"	Wednesday	" 9th.
	"	"	Friday	" 11th.
	"	"	Tuesday	" 15th.
	"	"	Monday	" 21st.
Second	"	"	Monday	" 21st.
Third	"	"	Monday	" 21st.

Report of Wednesday April 23rd.
" " Thursday April 24th.
" " Sunday May 11th.
" " Monday " 12th.
" " Friday " 16th.

The fur coat is at present held in the Superintendent's Office.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Lambert

Superintendent.

Huntsville, Ont.

Aug. 1.1919.

Dear Miss Johnston.

I am very glad to know that you have been paid in full by Mr Ross. I have written to our Superintendent to deliver the fur coat to mr Ross in view of your having r received compensation. I hope that the sad affair is now closed.

Yours sincerely,

Port Hope, Aug 18/19.

Sir Robert Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir -

I am returning the information regarding my pur coal, which you so kindly sent me. Again thanking you for your timely assistance

Dear

Yours very Sincerely
Bernice J. Lowther.
Port Hope, Ont.

Port Hope, June 25/19.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President Toronto University,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry to have to trouble you again, but as I have written Mr Ross, Brucefield, twice, in regard to the settlement of my fur coat, and neckpiece and have had

asking for a settlement,
or to hear from him,
as soon as possible.
and still he disregards
My letters.

I feel that, after
waiting more than
three weeks, I
should have some
intimation as to his
intentions, and so
again I would ask your
kindly assistance. I
am

yours truly
Bernice Johnston
Port Hope, Ont.

no answer, I thought you would have some suggestion as to future procedure.

On June 3. I wrote him, enclosing Brodey-Drainin's (furriers) statement as to the present value of the coat, which is $390.00. I also added $45.00 for the neckpiece (a price which I considered the very least I could accept). This made a total of $435.00

Later I wrote him

June 30th, 1919

Miss E. Johnston,

Port Hope.

Dear Miss Johnston:

I am very sorry that you have not yet heard from Mr. Hoss. I will, however, write to him to-day and tell him that unless he communicates with you I will put the information that we have in your hands in order that you may prosecute and recover the value of your coat.

Yours sincerely,

President.

July 2nd, 1919

Miss Bernice Johnston,

Port Hope, Ont.

Dear Miss Johnston:

I have this morning received a letter from Mr. Rose in which he says that he answered both your letters, addressing them to "Mr. Bernice Johnston, Port Hope." He does not understand why you have not received them. He has asked me to send him your right address if the above is not correct, and he will forward the money at once. He says that if he cannot reach you he will send the money to the University. Will you be good enough to correspond directly with him as I am to be out of the city for a few days.

Yours sincerely,

President.

Port Hope. July 28/19.

Sir Robert Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir—

I have received the money from Mrs. Donald Ross in payment of my fur coat, and fur neck piece, and so have no further claim to them.

I wish to thank

you, very much for your
kindness, and interest,
during the loss and
recovery of my furs. I
appreciate it very
much.

Yours very truly
Bernice Thurston,
Port Hope, Ont.

July 9th, 1919

Miss Bernice Johnston,
Port Hope, Ont.

Dear Miss Johnston:

I am sending you the Superintendent's Report regarding the loss of your coat. Will you be kind enough to return it ?

Yours sincerely,

President.